

Concept Note: National CSR Awards

1. Introduction

1.1 Ministry of Corporate Affairs has instituted National CSR Awards to recognize corporate initiatives in the area of corporate social responsibility (CSR) to achieve inclusive growth and inclusive and sustainable development.

1.2 With the enactment of Companies Act, 2013 containing the CSR provision under Section 135, the mandate for CSR has now become a part of corporate functioning in the country. While several companies have traditionally been undertaking CSR activities to betterment of communities around, with the introduction of legislative mandate, the contributions of companies in this direction are now becoming more streamlined. The framework laid down under the Section 135 along with rules therein, the CSR mandate under the Act is an attempt to infuse corporate innovations in the form of approach, usage of technology, expertise etc. to developmental challenges faced by the country. CSR Projects undertaken by companies are expected to throw up innovative solutions to specific problems in the domains of social, economic and environmental challenges.

1.3 The Awards have been instituted subsequent to the recommendations of the High Level Committee on CSR and approval of the same by the Hon'ble Minister for Corporate Affairs.

2. Objective of the awards

2.1 The National CSR Awards seek to:

- recognize the companies that have positively impacted both business and society by taking a strategic approach to CSR through collaborative program.
- recognize the companies that are leading transformation by integrating sustainability in their core business model.
- recognize companies for implementing measures for conservation and sustainable management of the biodiversity and ecosystem in the value chain.
- identifying innovative approaches and employing application and technologies that will help to build a robust CSR programs to further the cause of inclusive and sustainable development.

2.2 Award categories and broad sectors: Total number of awards for National CSR Awards is 16 for 4 categories of companies in 4 broad sectors The 4 categories of companies to be contesting in the award process will be as follows:

- Companies (other than PSEs) having CSR spend equal to or above Rs 5 crore in FY 2015 – 16
- Companies (other than PSEs) having CSR spend below Rs 5 crore in FY 2015 – 16
- Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) having CSR spend equal to or above Rs 5 crore in FY 2015 – 16
- Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) having CSR spend below Rs 5 crore in FY 2015 – 16

2.3 Four broad sectors of the CSR awards for which the applicants will be applying will be as follows:

- Human development
- Economic development
- Social welfare
- Environment and Sustainable Development

2.4 Additionally, a lifetime achievement award, which seeks to recognize extra-ordinary contribution in the area of CSR, has also been instituted. This award shall also take into cognizance the CSR work preceding the enactment of Companies Act 2013.

3. Mode of Entry

3.1 There are **two modes of entry** – by application and by nomination.

Entry by Application

3.2 A company required to comply with Section 135 of Companies Act 2013 is eligible to submit application for consideration of National CSR Award in suitable categories. The application can be made through online medium or print (paper). For online as well as print (paper) application, a user-friendly portal (<http://national-csrawards.iica.in>) is ready.

Entry by Nomination

3.2 Nominations can be made by anyone. However, the nominated company shall have to submit details in accordance with the **guidelines provided at: <http://national-csrawards.iica.in>**

4. Award Administration

4.1 Apropos the in-principle approval, Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary, MCA has been constituted. The Steering Committee has representation from Government of India (MCA and Dept of Public Enterprises), industry chambers (CII, FICCI, Assocham and PHDCCI), professional institutions (ICSI, ICAI, ICMAI) and IICA (DG&CEO, IICA and a Nodal Officer).

4.2 A detailed operational strategy outlining application process, field verification of applications/ nominated entries through an independent jury has been approved by the Steering Committee.

4.3 Implementation Support from Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs - IICA, think-tank and capacity building arm of Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has been entrusted with the implementation support for National CSR Awards. The Institute through a dedicated Secretariat is now implementing various steps in accordance with the operational strategy.

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